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UM WRESTLERS "RISE FROM THE DEAD"

bennett/rb
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sports state + Big Sky



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MISSOULA--

It was a week Grizzly wrestling fans won't soon forget. First Montana State on Wednesday, then Idaho State on Saturday, two matches-two wins-unreal.

The dual meet with Montana State started on a favorable note when Grizzly Glen Nelson scored a reversal and a near-fall in the final period to win an 11-2 major decision over Dave Rathman in the 118-pound match. That got the Tips off to a 4-0 lead.

UM's Steve Resner came back with a reversal after two scoreless periods, turned it into a near-fall and spent the rest of the match picking up more near-falls to keep his opponent in constant trouble. That put the Grizzlies ahead 7-0.

Tim Owen, a Missoula product who spent two years at North Idaho College before transferring back to UM, tired in the final period of his match and was outpointed 11-5 by Rick Parke at 134 pounds.

The loss was quickly turned around when two other North Idaho transfers, Otis Price and Neal Nix took impressive 13-7 and 19-4 victories over Bobcats Keith Kovash and John Tennant, respectively. That made the score 15-3 Montana.

Bobcat Mark Anderson came back in the final period with an escape and three take-downs to overtake Leo Hennessy 8-5 at 167 pounds.

From then on it was all Grizzlies as Jim Clowes, Joel Germundson and Mike Pantzlaff pinned each of their opponents.

Clowes got his at the final buzzer over Mike DonTigney in the 167-pound match. Germundson pinned Doug Hopkins at 6:05 in the 177-pound class and Pantzlaff stuck 190 pounder Les Gard in 4:23.

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With the victory well in hand, George Woldseth decisioned Bobcat Dave Torchia for a 7-4 win in the heavyweight match.

After there first-ever win over MSU by a score of 35-6, the Grizzlies tangled with another Big Sky foe and perennial power Idaho State, and came away with a 29-15 victory Saturday at the Adams Field House in Missoula.

It should be noted that 18 of those Grizzly points came by way of forfeits as the Bengals have been having their share of injuries.

The Grizzlies swept three weight classes, 126, 134 and 142 on the strength of the wrestling of Tim Owen, Otis Price and Neal Nix.

The meet's lone pin came at 118 where UM's Glenn Nelson led Richard Berry 10-5 before tiring and falling with 48 seconds left.

The other three losses were close, including two, one-point losses.

Jim Fenwick picked up Montana's first forfeit at 150, but Jim Dalley got ISU moving with a 6-3 decision over Francis Rollins at 158. The Bengals added another three points at 167, as Brian Farmer used riding time to edge Jim Clowes 2-1.

After forfeits at 177 and 190 that assured Montana of the victory, heavyweight Mike Pantzlaff came within a point of taking unbeaten Jessie Ponce of ISU.

Pantzlaff, who usually wrestles at 190 and may go lower before the season ends, fell behind 10-2 after two periods. But with Ponce on top to begin the final three minutes, Pantzlaff escaped and scored a take-down before letting Ponce escape with 1:06 remaining. That turned out to be the winning point, as Pantzlaff put Ponce on the mat with 20 seconds left and came within fractions of the pin.